

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-84 and add new claims 85 as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. - 76. (cancelled)

77. (currently amended) A method of producing an L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-homoserine, L-threonine, and branched chain L-amino acids comprising the steps of:

A) cultivating in a culture medium a bacterium transformed with a DNA that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

B) removing solids including cells from the medium; and

C) purifying said L-amino acid from the medium obtained in step B);

~~wherein said L-amino acid is present in the medium obtained from step B) in a larger amount than that produced if the bacterium of step A) was not transformed with said DNA.~~

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the bacterium is further transformed with a second DNA that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said second DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

81. (currently amended) The method of claim 77, wherein said L-amino acid is L-homoserine or L-threonine.

82. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein said L-amino acid is L-homoserine or L-threonine.

83. (currently amended) The method of claim 79, wherein said L-amino acid is L-homoserine or L-threonine.

84. (currently amended) The method of claim 80, wherein said L-amino acid is L-homoserine or L-threonine.

85. (new) The method according to claim 77, wherein said branched chain L-amino acid is L-valine or L-leucine.